Provident Fund arrears against exempted establishments

116. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of arrears by the exempted establishments towards provident fund at the end of 1986;

(b) how much of the amount has been in arrears for more than one year and what action is being taken against such erring establishments: and

(c) whether Government are contemplating any changes in the procedure of payment of provident fund amount to retired employees in time, for reducing arrears and for increasing efficiency into the Provident Fund Organisation; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A SANGMA): (a) and (b) According to available information, a sum of about Rs. 103.76 crores was outstanding against the exempted establishments as on 30-9-86, out of which about Rs. 79.53 crores was in arrears for more than one year;

The EPF authorities have been generally taking following action against the defaulting establishments:

(i) Prosecutions are filed under section 14(2A) of the EPF Act;

(ii) Complaints are filed under section 406/409 IPC for non-payment of employees' share of contribution deducted from the wages of the employees but not deposited;

(iii) Action is taken to cancel the exemption in respect of persistent defaulters.

(c) Yes, Sir. Steps are being taken to computerise the work relating to maintenance of provident fund accounts in a phased manner. This is likely to improve the efficiency of the organisation and ensure timely settlement of provident fund claims of outgoing members. The legal and penal provisions of the Act are proposed to be made more stringent, so as to check the defaults.

Freedom Fighters' pension cases

117. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government assured that all pending cases of pensions of freedom fighters under the Swatantrata Sainik Sanman Scheme would be finalised by the 15th August, 1986;

(b) whether such cases are still pending; if so, what is the number of such cases, State-wise and the likely period by which the cases will be disposed of and pension granted; and

(c) how many cases have been referred by MPs from different States and those recommended by State Governments and whether the Ministry attaches importance to such references and recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) In reply to Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 102 replied on 24-7-86, it was stated that all pending applications for freedom fighters pension received in time i.e. before 31-3-1986 would be finalised by 15-8-1986 in a special drive. Cases of exceptional marginal nature or cases having special features were to be taken up after the drive. Cases that required scrutiny by special screening committee (Hyd. Committee and Arya Samaj Committee) were necessarily to be decided only after views of the Committees are known with reference to each case.

(b) The cases scheduled to be finalised by 15-8-86 were finalised by that date. However, 5100 cases that are marginal/exceptional in nature and that require screening by special committees are pending and are given in